

From: Haydn Huntley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 12:56am
Subject: Re: US vs. Microsoft

Dear Judge,

I'm not sure what more to say than that if Microsoft is not punished in a manner commensurate with the seriousness of its crimes, then it will almost certainly commit more crimes -- to the public's detriment.

I am a professional software engineer with a MS in CS and over 20 years of experience on almost every kind of microcomputer and operating system, and I'm not surprised that Microsoft was repeatedly found guilty in this case, and that they also lost on appeal. That they are guilty beyond any reasonable doubt has been amply demonstrated, and I was also especially irritated by some of their deceptions (such as claiming that the browser is integral to the OS, when it is as integral as your car's radio, or when they submitted a video taped demonstration which had been doctored!). Such actions indicate their contempt for justice and the judicial system.

Not only that, but during the last year they have continued their efforts to maintain and extend their monopoly, for example by prohibiting users from using other browsers on their websites and by removing Java from Windows XP. They certainly don't seem to behave in a reformed manner!

What should we do with such a pernicious offender?

We must punish them in such a way that it will teach them and cause them to behave differently in the future.

I've heard that during the last few years, while they were doing their illegal activities, that they have saved up some 36 billion dollars. Perhaps a large substantial fine would be a good remedy, and use it to pay off the national debt. Mightn't that be good for society as a whole?

Also, forcing them to publish all of their file formats for their office products, forcing them to unbundle Internet Explorer from Windows, and to place the source code for Windows into the public domain would also be good.

If these remedies were used, then Microsoft would not have profitted from their illegal behavior, and they would not be able to profit in the future from it either. Isn't this a reasonable remedy?

Anything less will simply reward them and allow, or even cause, them to continue!

Doesn't our society as a whole deserve just reparations in this case?

--Haydn

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